
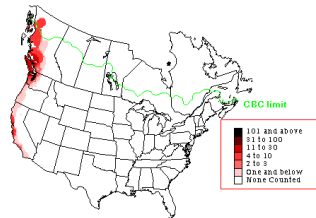


Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*

Adult alternate		Summer range map	Winter range map
 Photo by H.R. Spindelov Jr.	Not Available	Not Available	

Migration Status	Breeding Habitat	Nest Location	Nest Type	Clutch Size	Incubation	Fledge	Number of Broods	Diet
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	23-25 days	60-65	1	Fish, Aquatic Invertebrates, Reptiles or Amphibians, Insects

Identification Tips:

- Length: 18? inches Wingspan: 47? inches
- Sexes similar
- Immature like basic-plumaged adult
- Large diving bird with long body that rides low in the water
- Large bill is straight at tip and is held horizontally
- Feet set far back on body, and trail behind body in flight
- Upperwings wholly dark in flight

Adult alternate:

- Dark bill
- Gray crown and nape
- Black chin, dark purple throat, and sides of neck striped black and white
- White chest and belly
- Black back with white checkering and spotting

Adult basic:

- Dark bill
- Gray-brown cap, forehead, nape, and back
- White chin, throat, and belly
- Dark nape strongly contrasts with white throat
- Sometimes has chin strap

Similar species: Cormorants have hooked bills. Western, Clark's and Red-necked grebes have thinner variably yellow bills and show white in the wings in flight. Other species of loons can be quite similar in appearance. In alternate plumage the paler gray head differentiates it from the darker-headed Common and Yellow-billed Loons while the dark throat separates it from the Red-throated Loon. In basic plumage it has much more contrast between the dark nape and white throat than the other species. In all plumages it has a straighter, not upturned bill unlike the Red-throated and Yellow-billed Loons while the Common Loon has a larger bill. The Pacific Loon was formerly considered conspecific with the Arctic Loon. The Arctic Loon is very similar in appearance, has a green throat patch in breeding plumage, a larger bill and whiter flanks.

Credits:

Citation:

Gough, G.A., Sauer, J.R., Iliff, M. *Patuxent Bird Identification Infocenter* 1998. Version 97.1. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.
<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/Infocenter/infocenter.html>

Length and wingspan from:

Robbins, C.S., Bruun, B., Zim, H.S., (1966). *Birds of North America*. New York: Western Publishing Company, Inc.

Clutch size, fledging, brood, and incubation information from:

Ehrlich, P., Dobkin, D., and Wheye, D. (1988). *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*. New York. Simon and Schuster Inc.